

# *The* INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER

JANUARY, 1944



*Official Magazine*  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
TEAMSTERS...CHAUFFEURS  
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS  
OF AMERICA

## IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Willkie is Strongest Republican.....	1
Teamsters of Southern States Unite.....	4
Flynn Urges Better Wages for South.....	6
Chicago Sun Answers Tribune.....	10
Farm Bureau Opposes Lower Prices.....	11
Morgan Caught Chiseling on Taxes Again.....	12
Boston Milk Drivers Give Blood.....	14
Civil Liberties Union Aids Fascism.....	15
Truckers Draft Manpower Program.....	17
No Price Too High to Beat Roosevelt.....	19
Priest Pillories Pegler.....	20
Congressman Gale Blows Off.....	22
No Jap Help Wanted Here.....	23
Unions Should Save Their Money.....	24

We do not accept advertising



## **"Happy New Year"—Tobin**

**I** WISH all of our members a happy and prosperous New Year. Let us hope and trust and pray that this New Year of 1944 will be the last year in which our country and the world will ever again be plunged in the slaughter, privation and destruction brought about by war.

The civilizations of the ages past, with all of their miseries, their periodical murders and sufferings obtaining as a result of war, never had to undergo such a universal struggle for existence as has this present generation.

In the old days of ignorance and intolerance, the destruction of life as it now prevails and the setting aside of all of man's advancements, would be considered as an act of God in order to punish those who did wrong.

But modern education and the so-called advancement of our civilization ignore or scoff at such a belief. Those of us who believe that justice and decency and honesty bring their own reward in time — we cannot agree with the modern theorists or with sociological analysts whose deductions are based, in most all instances, on the theory of the non-existence of a supreme being.

Although we are suffering and will continue to suffer for some time to come, and although there are mothers, wives and sisters who will lose their loved ones before this conflict has ended, there should be joy in our hearts that we have been permitted in our life to participate in this great world struggle, to the end that future struggles involving the slaughter of the innocents shall be prevented by our sacrifices.

Let us then, in this New Year, pledge ourselves to continue our efforts, and to make greater efforts if possible, to the end that we will, by those sacrifices and efforts, bring an ending to this unholy struggle for existence and freedom.

It is the hope and prayer and sincere desire of your editor and general president that you continue in health and in peace and in strength, enjoying as much as possible the fruits of your struggles and sacrifices during the coming year of 1944.

DANIEL J. TOBIN.



# The INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER



**Official Magazine** INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS  
CHAUFFEURS . . . WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS

Vol. XLI

JANUARY, 1944

Number 2

## *Willkie is Strongest Republican* **Democrats Will Lose Election if War is Over**

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

Office of Publication  
222 E. Michigan Street.....Indianapolis 4, Ind.

**Daniel J. Tobin, Editor**  
**Lester M. Hunt, Assistant Editor**

Entered as second-class matter, February 23, 1906,  
at the postoffice at Indianapolis, Ind., under the  
Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.  
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage  
provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 2, 1917,  
authorized on July 8, 1918.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Annum.....\$2.50 | Single Copies 25 Cents  
(All Orders Payable in Advance)  
Published Monthly

### GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

General President, DANIEL J. TOBIN, 222 E.  
Michigan St., Indianapolis, Ind.  
General Sec'y-Treas., JOHN M. GILLESPIE, 222  
E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, Ind.  
First Vice-President, M. J. CASHAL, Room 712,  
265 West 14th Street, New York, N. Y.  
Second Vice-President, JOHN P. McLAUGHLIN,  
536 Bryant St., San Francisco, Calif.  
Third Vice-President, LESLIE G. GOUDIE, 216 S.  
Ashland Blvd., Chicago, Ill.  
Fourth Vice-President, D. J. MURPHY, 4111 Forest  
Park Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.  
Fifth Vice-President, JOHN J. CONLIN, 89 Adams  
St., Hoboken, N. J.  
Sixth Vice-President, THOMAS J. FARRELL, 39  
W. McMicken Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Seventh Vice-President, DAVE BECK, 552 Denny  
Way, Seattle, Wash.  
Eighth Vice-President, EDWARD CRUMBOCK,  
105 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Ninth Vice-President, SIDNEY L. BRENNAN, 706  
First Ave., N., Minneapolis, Minn.

### TRUSTEES

MILTON DOLL, 39 W. McMicken Ave., Cincinnati,  
Ohio.  
JOHN O'BRIEN, 4217 S. Halsted St., Chicago, Ill.  
JAMES R. HOFFA, 2741 Trumbull Ave., Detroit,  
Mich.

IT IS FOOLISH to predict who the nominees will be in the next election. You get no credit if you guess right, and if you guess wrong you are very liable to be criticized. However, we are entitled to our guess.

It is our judgment that Willkie will be nominated by the Republican party, from what we glean in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and other Middle Western States. Anything can happen, but one thing is certain: Willkie is making a campaign that will be difficult to overcome.

On the Democratic side of the fence it all depends upon what condition obtains in the war and in the world about the middle of next June.

The Democrats do not have a great number of very strong men who would appeal to the people. If the war is ended — which we very much doubt — the party in power will not be returned to office.

From our point of view, Dewey has a chance of nomination, but only a chance, and our advice to him would be — if we had any influence with him — to keep out of the picture and wait until the next election in 1948, if the war has not ended by June, 1944.

Dewey would be a tougher man for the Democrats to beat in the State of New York than Willkie. Throughout the rest of the



country Willkie is the better of the two campaigners. All of these rumors about a split in the Republican Party are just so much hot air. The Republicans work as a unit when it comes to elections, especially if they are out of office.

Women voters in the Republican party are much more enthusiastic than women voters in the Democratic party. With them it is a religion. Many of them are fanatics, but are entirely sincere.

This, I repeat, cannot be said of the women voters in the Democratic party, regardless of the fact that Mrs. Roosevelt has done everything that is humanly possible to arouse the interest of the women of the nation towards participating in the campaign and in the elections. I have personally known of many Republican women voters going to the polls when their husbands stayed away.

The people of our country should pay much more attention and give greater consideration to the peace table or the peace conferences after the war than they seem to give at this time.

On how the peace treaty is written, the conditions laid down and then carried out, depends the safety of future generations.

There is too much emphasis placed on the last election of congressmen and the so-called Republican victories in New York, New Jersey and Kentucky. The only one that is worth consideration is Kentucky.

Now there are certain elements in Kentucky amongst the working people who believe they could be no worse off under the Republican regime in that state than they have been under the Democratic regime that has prevailed for the past forty years.

Many thousands of workers did not consider it worth their while to go to the polls in the last election in Kentucky for governor and other state officers.

In New York the result was a foregone conclusion and had been for long before the day of voting for a lieutenant-governor. The Republicans had an A-1 candidate who,

as a member of the state senate, had voted for labor in most instances.

Tom Dewey has not antagonized labor since he was elected to office, nor did he antagonize labor when he was district attorney. He prosecuted crooks and criminals, which was his duty.

The Democrats had a candidate for lieutenant-governor who had no experience, no record as a public official, and was almost unknown.

To top this, some feeling existed between the rank and file of the membership of the American Federation of Labor and the American Labor Party.

Although this party calls itself the American Labor Party, it is not known or heard of to any great extent outside of Greater New York.

It nominated a ticket and endorsed certain candidates without going as far as they could to consult with and try to get unified action with the other organizations of labor and their friends who are outside the American Labor Party.

The membership of the American Federation of Labor is undoubtedly the most predominant part of labor in the State of New York. It is regrettable that unity of action does not prevail among the toilers, especially the organized toilers, of the State of New York or any other state, because with division existing, the enemies of labor creep in.

We feel that this condition can be corrected and must be corrected when the general election takes place in 1944.

As one who has had something to do with labor, organized and unorganized, in the last three national campaigns, I desire to say that in those three campaigns labor was a unit and voted solidly for their friends; those whom they believed would be faithful to their promises and give labor what it was justly entitled to, a square deal.

As a result of this unity, labor elected those whom they supported in most all instances throughout the nation. Unless this condition prevails in 1944 — and I re-



peat that I believe it can and will — then labor will be bringing down on the heads of its membership a scourge that it will be difficult for them to get rid of in the years to come.

There is always a period of reaction after a period of progress. The reaction will set in at the ending of the war. It has already made itself manifest in many states. We refer to the return to power of those who hate labor.

Many of the thin-skinned politicians who have been returned to office have betrayed their trust insofar as labor is concerned. No matter to which party they belong, those who have proved false to their promises should not be returned to office.

It is better that labor should know who its outstanding enemies are than to re-elect men whom they once elected and who played false to their pledges.

Labor holds the balance of power to a great extent in this country. The farm laborers need organization and they benefit indirectly by the advances made by organized labor. Consequently they follow the organized labor movement when they go to the polls.

This is also true of the thousands of unorganized workers in department stores, offices, etc. If labor holds a substantial balance of power and is able to influence and control a majority of the workers, then it is foolish for that movement or its leadership to be divided because of political party affiliation.

It is also foolish for labor to support any party or individuals within the party who have proved themselves to be useless to labor and false to their promises.

First we must have the candidates and know who they are; next we must know what position we are in in the fearful war that is still with us; and third, we must fully understand that there are greater dangers awaiting the labor movement and the workers in the near future, especially at the

ending of the war, than have confronted the workers in the last 50 years.

There is a determined, well-organized movement, in which many large, influential groups are joined together, headed, of course, by the moneyed interests who are keeping behind the scenes, and those large groups are determined to set labor back by repealing the present helpful legislation enacted in recent years and putting through more far-reaching and dangerous legislation against labor than it was ever confronted with in the history of our country.

Leaders of labor should set aside their personal feelings and direct their attention to the need of protecting the masses of their membership, on whom all the workers of the country are dependent.

I have confidence in the intelligence of the labor leaders of our country. I say this after having worked with them and after having known them over a long period of years. I say this knowing that a few have made mistakes and have been classed as unintelligent and undesirable.

I also believe that the reactionaries, or those politicians who represent the employing class, will not make the mistakes that were made in the years past by going too far in legislation crucifying labor.

If they do, you can rest assured that such procedure eventually will solidify labor and bring about more radical changes in behalf of labor than would otherwise obtain.

If the party in power — whether it be big business or labor — goes too far it eventually strengthens the hands of those they unnecessarily persecute.

This has been brought home very clearly to us in the states that have passed, within the last year, extremely adverse legislation.

Our International Union — and we believe other International Unions — have substantially increased and solidified their membership in those states.

With the exception of the dread specter of unemployment, there is nothing to discourage us at the beginning of this eventful year of 1944.



## *Teamsters of South Unite*

### — Southeast and Southwest Conferences Merged

**T**HE Southern Conference of Teamsters has been organized in New Orleans as the first step to improve working conditions through the entire South and to streamline the national organization of the Teamsters' Union to cope with changing economic conditions after the war.

The organization was perfected under the guidance of Thomas E. Flynn, executive assistant to General President Tobin, and with Tobin's active cooperation.

The new organization merges the Southwest Conference of Teamsters and the Southeast Conference of Teamsters. It covers the ten states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

The last four states formerly comprised the Southwest Conference and the remaining six were in the Southeast.

North and South Carolina may be ultimately added to the Southern Conference giving it 12 states and making it the largest such organization inside the Teamsters' Union.

Flynn traveled from International headquarters to New Orleans to address the delegates from the southern states and to advise them on the functions of the conference and the details of organization.

James Hamilton, president of Local No. 886 of Oklahoma City, was chosen president of the Southern Conference with F. L. Medlin of Local No. 327, Nashville, Tenn., as vice-president and J. L. Biggers of Local No. 667, Memphis, as secretary-treasurer.

Trustees elected were Odell Smith of Local No. 878 of Little Rock, Ark., Charles Pendergast of Local No. 991, Mobile, Ala., and Floyd Webb of Fort Smith, Ark.

The first meeting of the new Southern Conference will be held in Memphis on March 21, at which reports will be made on negotiations with all employers in the area

affected by the recent instructions of the War Labor Board for the employers and union to settle their differences in the over-the-road setup.

The formation of the Southern Conference was viewed by Flynn as a step of paramount importance, particularly in preparation for the future.

"The South has long been backward in wages," he said. "The International has been handicapped in its efforts to improve conditions there because of the lack of a strong sectional organization of local unions.

"The low wages of the South have been a threat to the higher wages of the rest of the country and loomed as especially dangerous in the days of rehabilitation after the war.

"At that time some employers will unquestionably attempt to drive wages in the rest of the nation down to the level of the South. Our aim is to bring the wages of the South up to those of the North.

"We cannot accomplish that without organization in the South. The first step was to organize two conferences in the southern states. These have since progressed to the point where their merger was advisable in order to bring better results.

"The objective of the new conference will be to negotiate general contracts for the South which will eliminate the inexcusably low wages in some of the backward sections of that area.

"Once the wages and working conditions of the entire South have been equalized, we can begin to bring all 10 states up to the level of the rest of the country."

Flynn forecast rapid changes in labor policies for which labor must be prepared. He predicted that many of the restrictive labor laws would not be repealed after the war.



Some will be modified and some new ones may be enacted.

"But labor will not go back to the good old days any more than industry will," he declared.

"The public will demand machinery to control unfair practices of both labor and employers. There will be increasing objection to strikes, no matter who is at fault or what issues are involved.

"The public will demand continued production of essential goods through laws designed to settle disputes without strikes.

"This means that future labor disputes will be decided by public opinion. The winner will be the side which best presents its case to the government tribunal on which the public will demand representation and a controlling vote.

"The cost of a statistical bureau is too high for the average local union. Locals must, therefore, band themselves together to share the cost.

"This is one of the primary purposes of the Southern Conference. It will begin at once to assemble the facts on which we can improve working conditions in the South and protect our members in the days ahead.

"I am highly pleased with the spirit of enterprise shown by our unions in the South as reflected by their delegates to the conference in New Orleans. The South has taken a long forward step. We pledge it the continued cooperation of the International as we strive to protect the progress we have made through the years and to play our part in the orderly economic reconstruction of our country when the war is won."



These are the men who made history for organized labor in the South when they organized the Southern Conference of Teamsters, embracing 10 states, in New Orleans last month. Officers of the new conference are in the front row on each side of Thomas E. Flynn of Indianapolis, executive assistant to the general president. From left to right they are: Charles Pendergast of Mobile, trustee; F. L. Medlin of Nashville, vice-president; J. L. Busby of Birmingham, secretary of the organization meeting; Flynn; International Organizer Leo B. Carter of New Orleans; Floyd Webb of Fort Smith, Ark., trustee; Odell Smith of Little Rock, trustee, and James Hamilton of Oklahoma City, president. At the extreme left of the back row is J. L. Biggers, secretary-treasurer, of Memphis. Seated just behind those in the first row are International Organizers Frank Prohl, T. T. Neal and Robert Borden.



# *Urges Better Wages for the South*

## Flynn Analyzes Postwar Conditions

**F**EDERAL regulation of labor has come to stay, according to the warning of Thomas E. Flynn, executive assistant to the general president, in an analysis of present and future labor problems given to delegates of the two southern conferences of Teamsters from 10 southern states in New Orleans.

The defeat of the Democrats next fall would not mean the elimination of "bureaucrats," Flynn said. It would merely mean

the replacement of Democratic bureaucrats with Republican bureaucrats. The bureaus themselves have come to stay and labor will continue to be regulated to control strikes after the war, he declared.

In advocating the immediate formation of the Southern Conference of Teamsters, Flynn said it was an essential step to prepare for conditions of the future. His complete address follows:

---

The success of our international depends to a large degree upon your success in the South. And your success in the South, likewise, depends to a large degree on our development in the rest of the country.

In other words, we are all part of the same organization, and the success of one is the success of the other.

I realize that wage scales in some parts of the South do not compare favorably with those in some parts of the North. That is not our fault. It is the fault of local conditions. The opposition to unions is greater here than it is where I come from.

You have a large surplus of cheap labor which employers have used to keep your wages down. They have tried to picture union organizers from the North as carpetbaggers and thus keep alive the passions of the Civil War for their own profit.

The wage differentials between the North and the South have been a matter of constant concern in your international headquarters.

Our job is to improve the working conditions of all the members of our craft regardless of the locality in which they are employed.

We are truly a national, as well as an international, union. We realize that to protect the wages won by some fortunate communities we cannot permit employers

in other localities to hold wages down to substandard levels. It is our aim to bring the low communities up to the level of the high communities. We are striving for the day when we can sit down and negotiate contracts for the entire motor transportation industry — North and South, East and West.

To do that, however, we need strong unions in all parts of the country. We cannot negotiate national contracts today because the southern employers insist on maintaining their wage differentials.

We cannot force these employers to bargain with us on the same wage scales as we have in many northern cities because our union is not strong enough in the South.

Therefore, the immediate problem before us is organization. We must get the members before we can get the wages. As long as the employers have a pool of unorganized workers to draw on to fill our jobs, we cannot successfully tie up the industry.

We cannot tie up the industry under any circumstances today, however. The demands of the war come first. We have pledged ourselves to stop strikes for the duration of the emergency. We sacrificed the most potent weapon we had to enforce our demands because we realized that the nation faced the greatest crisis of its existence.



We are in a war in which every right we have as union men and as free American citizens is at stake. If we lose the war, we lose our unions, our churches and our schools. We lose everything we have always accepted as an inalienable right, guaranteed by the Constitution.

It is under that Constitution that we have made all our progress, slow though it may have seemed to us at times.

Yet in spite of setbacks and occasional discouragement, the masses of America have progressed further, and faster, than those of any other nation in the world.

It is for the right to continue our orderly progress that we are fighting today. If we lose this war there will no longer be any Constitution to protect the fundamental rights we have always enjoyed.

The conditions of slavery in every nation conquered by the Japs or the Germans should be sufficient evidence of the fate in store for us if we lose.

Therefore, to avoid any possibility of that horrible consequence, the responsible leaders of American labor pledged the government that strikes would be avoided for the duration.

We are sacrificing a little, temporarily, to protect everything we have permanently.

So when I speak of tying up an industry, I am not speaking of today, in the midst of war. I am speaking of the days to come, after the war, when employers may try to capitalize on an abundance of labor from the ranks of demobilized soldiers and war workers to break our unions and destroy our wage standards.

We must begin now to prepare for that day — by organization. As we become stronger, we can obtain wage adjustments. But we must obtain wage adjustments by new methods to meet new conditions.

The old days when all a labor leader needed was a big fist and a strong arm have gone. Today we need men with heads. They must understand the changes that are coming so rapidly.

They must know how to meet those changes just as the modern military leader must be ready to cope with the new conditions of war on a global basis.

Not all of the changes we have experienced during the last two years are temporary. Some of them have come to stay. Whether we like it or not, we face further restrictions on labor.

We can avoid some of those restrictions by anticipating them and by winning public confidence by the way we discharge our responsibilities during the war.

**And I cannot stress too strongly the fact that labor can make no future progress — it cannot even hold its own — without public approval of its acts. No strike can succeed in the future unless the public is in sympathy with it.**

Just as the world is now contemplating action that will outlaw international strife, the people of this nation and other nations are considering action to outlaw domestic strife.

Progress of labor in the future will be made, not by force, but by logic. We will find that one of the changes that has come to stay is some sort of federal supervision of labor.

The public will not tolerate a wave of strikes when the war ends. It will insist on an orderly transition from war to peacetime production.

Stoppages of work will henceforth be considered primarily from the standpoint of the public and not from the standpoint of either labor or industry.

Both employers and workers must justify their demands before a government tribunal, which means, in the last analysis, before the bar of public opinion.

Suppose, for instance, that the automobile workers demand a wage increase of 25 cents an hour after the war. Suppose, also, that the automobile manufacturers refuse to pay the increase, contending that to do



so will radically increase the price of automobiles.

Immediately the public interest is involved, and the public demands that the dispute be settled in a way that will not interrupt the production of automobiles and will not boost their cost beyond the ability of the public to buy automobiles.

The outcome of that dispute will depend on whether the automobile manufacturers can convince the public that the wage demand is extravagant or whether the unions can convince the public that the demand is just, and that it will not affect the price of motor cars unreasonably.

The only way either side can convince the public is with facts. The manufacturer must produce facts to prove his argument and the workers must produce facts to prove theirs.

These facts must come from research and statistical departments. The employers are well equipped with the research facilities. Labor must be equally well equipped or it will be unable to refute the claims of the employers.

The time to begin preparing for that day is now. We must anticipate the changes that are coming and be prepared for them. We have had sufficient warning. We have only ourselves to blame if we cannot read the handwriting on the wall.

Suppose that instead of the automobile workers, the Teamsters are in a dispute with the truck operators. The same conditions will prevail except that the public interest will be more deeply involved in any tieup of the transportation system.

**If we step out arbitrarily and strike without any attempt to justify our wage demands, we will arouse the public against us, and we are licked before we start.**

Instead, we must assemble facts to show the earnings of the truck operators, the amount of freight they handle, the amount of their overhead expenses, and what percentage of that overhead is wages.

We must be able to show their capital investment and the return they are making on that investment in order to support our contention that we are not being fairly treated.

We must be able to produce statistics on living costs.

In short, we will have to prepare our wage demands as a lawyer prepares a legal case to try before a jury.

There is only one way to do that, and that is to establish a statistical department and a research department. The international union has such a department in Washington, D. C.

But we have not the funds to expand it sufficiently to handle the cases of every one of our more than 900 local unions. The international statistical department must be reinforced by area statistical departments and in some cases even local union statistical departments in large population centers like New York and Chicago.

Here in the South you occupy the most strategic part of our over-the-road transportation system.

Your highways are open the year around and new industries are constantly moving into your territory. More of the coast-to-coast freight will move across the South each year, and more local freight will develop as the South becomes industrialized.

You must be prepared for rapid development when the war ends. And unless you are to remain the weakest economic link in our chain, you must begin now to lay the foundation for an adequate wage after the war.

That brings you right back to a statistical department. But you must have the money to finance such a department and that brings you right back to the question of organization.

You must have the organization to finance your research, and you must have the organization to tie up the industry as a last resort should it become necessary.

I think that a meeting of this kind between the two southern conferences of



Teamsters is an indication that you realize the important part you are to play after the war.

You have similar problems and you should solve them together, using your collective strength, your collective resources and your collective brains.

I would suggest that you take immediate steps to set up a statistical and research department representing all the southern states. Later you can set up individual departments for each of your states, if it becomes necessary.

An assessment should be made on the membership to finance this department.

It should then begin immediately to assemble the facts on which you can base your demands for a general raise in your wage scales throughout the South after the war.

I believe it would be practical to attempt to raise the wages in the Southeast and Southwest states to a certain level all at once. Whether it is practical, however, we cannot tell until we have the economic facts at our disposal.

That is why you should establish a statistical department to begin work at once. As it begins to function, we can tell whether we should attempt to raise the whole South at once or to concentrate on certain localities or trade areas.

These trade areas will cover the jurisdiction of several unions and therefore the research must be made by a central bureau to cover them all.

We are entering a new era, brothers. I do not make these suggestions and predictions to alarm you. Rather, I present them as a challenge which must be met if you are to serve your membership.

It may surprise you to hear me say that it will not be easy to strike when the war emergency has passed. Many of our members believe that as soon as the war ends they can walk off the job at any time and for any excuse.

It is our duty to warn them of the changing conditions we foresee so that they will

not suffer needlessly in adjusting themselves.

But more than that, it is our duty to initiate the program that will protect their interests in the days to come.

**It is popular right now to blame all our troubles on bureaucrats and the national administration in Washington. Some labor leaders think all they have to do is to change the administration in the election next November and their troubles will be over.**

They will not be over. The only difference will be that you will have Republican bureaucrats instead of Democratic bureaucrats. Many of the federal bureaus that were born in the war have come to stay. They will be as much a part of our public life after the war as the courts.

They are a part of the new era we are entering.

The old days are not coming back for business, and they are not coming back for labor. Business will not be permitted to victimize the public as it did in the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover period.

It will be regulated and controlled in the public interest. And so will labor. How rigid that control will be depends on us. If labor rebels, it will get more control. If it *cooperates* it will get less.

That is why I have come all the way down here to meet with you today. We are all going to have to do a lot of work together from here on, and the better we know each other, the better we will do our work.

Together we can meet the challenge of the future and raise the living standards of our members while we improve their working conditions.

The Mason-Dixon Line is only a line on a map, but it has been made into an economic barrier by business manipulation. Our job is to tear down that barrier and bring to our members in the South the realization of that fundamental union principle — equal pay for equal work.



## *Chicago Sun* Answers *Tribune* Corrects Falsehoods on Pay of Milk Drivers

RECENTLY the attention of President Tobin was called to an editorial in *The Chicago Tribune* making unfavorable references to the enormous earnings of the members of the Milk Wagon Drivers' Union of Chicago.

Apparently the *Tribune* received most of its information on the milk drivers case from Paul Potter, a salaried employee of the Milk Distributors.

The general president sent this article from the *Tribune* to the Milk Wagon Drivers officials in Chicago and advised them to inform him if the statements were correct as contained in the *Tribune*, and if they were not correct to give publicity to their findings in order to inform the public of the true state of affairs.

Feeling that *The Chicago Tribune* would not publish their statement, they went to the other morning paper, *The Chicago Sun*, and the statement published below is taken from *The Chicago Sun*. We publish it for the information of our members, not only in Chicago but elsewhere.

We desire to add that there is no class of men in our organization who work any harder for their employers than the men employed in the delivery of milk and dairy products to the public, not only in Chicago but in every other large city.

Those men are running from the time they get to their route until they finish, up and down stairs, in and out of buildings, carrying filled bottles in and empty bottles out.

The average age of the milk driver is about 28 years. That means that there are men employed from 21 to about 40 years of age. Few men are employed over 40 years of age. They cannot stand the running, the jumping, and the carrying.

In war industries, ordinary, inexperienced workers have been earning a higher

average wage than the milk driver. In all war industries and in many industries outside of war, workers receive time and one-half after 40 hours and double time if they work seven days.

Milk drivers don't know anything about time and one-half or double time. Most of their work is piece work. While they have a certain guaranteed wage while they are building up their routes, after they reach that guarantee everything depends on the quality of salesmanship of the drivers.

It would be well for Paul Potter, who is receiving a much greater salary than any two milk drivers, to refrain from untrue criticism and unjust publicity of the Milk Wagon Drivers' Union. Otherwise it may be necessary for the International Union to expose some of the conditions within the milk industry.

We could, for instance, expose some of the work of the high-pressure groups now in Washington working in connection with paid lobbyists and even reaching inside the Department of Agriculture, to the end that their enormous profits be increased on much of their watered stock, to the disadvantage of both the farmer and the milk wagon drivers. McInerney of National Dairy used to get \$75,000 a year. The same ratio of pay applies to Borden and Bowman officials.

The following is the statement of Local Union 753, as published in *The Chicago Sun*, November 29, 1943:

### MILK UNION HEAD DISPUTES DEALER FIGURES ON PAY

Asserts That Few Drivers Can  
Reach "Average of \$62.25"

James G. Kennedy, president of the Milk Wagon Drivers' Union, Local No. 753 (AFL), issued a detailed statement yesterday challenging the argument of the Associated Milk



Dealers that a pay increase for drivers would necessitate a milk price increase.

Paul Potter, executive secretary of the dealers' group, asserted last week that average earnings of drivers have jumped from \$51.31 a week to \$62.65 from January, 1941, to January, 1943, and that store route drivers make up to \$200 a week.

#### Differs on Average Pay

Kennedy said a driver who makes \$62.65 a week would have to sell enough milk to give his employer \$256.62 profit before subtracting the wages. Few drivers on retail routes make that much, he said.

Drivers are awarded commissions on a point system. A half-pint of cream sold is a point, a quart of milk is a point, and so on. Retail drivers are guaranteed \$50 a week, and must sell more than 1,333 points a week to collect commissions in addition. For every 100 points above 1,333 they are paid 75 cents commission.

Wholesale drivers are paid \$50 a week for the first 2,000 points, 75 cents for every additional 100 points up to 6,000 and 90 cents a 100 points above 6,000.

#### How Cost Is Divided

"Meanwhile, the dealer gets 8½ cents a quart to pay the driver with," said Kennedy.

"The price paid by the housewife is 16½ cents. The employer pays the farmer 7 cents a quart for the milk, pays one-tenth of a cent to haul it to the city and takes nine-tenths of a cent to operate his plant.

"The \$62.25-a-week driver described as average by Potter would have to sell 3,019 quarts of milk a week or its equivalent in cream, buttermilk and other products. He gets \$50 for the first 1,333 quarts and would have to sell 1,686 more to collect \$12.65 commissions.

"The employer's cut on the same volume of milk sold would be 3,019 multiplied by 8½ cents or \$256.62. Out of that he pays the driver his \$62.65, leaving \$193.97 for himself."

#### Figures on Wholesale Routes

By similar computations, Kennedy presented figures to prove that drivers on wholesale routes, to make \$200 a week, would have to sell enough milk to give the employer a profit exceeding \$700, after deducting wages.

"Not many retail drivers make \$62.65 a week, and the wholesale drivers who make \$200 a week are even fewer," said Kennedy. "The few \$200 routes that exist resulted when the employers consolidated a number of routes to save money for themselves."

## Farm Bureau Opposes Lower Prices

**E**D O'NEAL, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, never loses an opportunity to go to the aid of "Big Business" or to drive a wedge between the farmer and the city worker. Here is his latest:

"The present attempt of the administration to keep the retail price of food down through a system of subsidies is simply an effort to give organized labor another indirect boost in wages.

"If this cry for cheap food is permitted to go on unchecked, it could easily result in forcing agriculture into a subservient position for generations to come."

While O'Neal is constantly endeavoring to separate the farmers and the workers, he never has a word to say about the profiteer-

ing middlemen who exploit both the farmers and the workers.

He should know that if these profiteers were curbed, the farmer could actually get a higher price for his products, while the worker and all other consumers paid a lower price for the food consumed by their families. All that is necessary is to curtail the exorbitant profits of the middleman!

O'Neal should know that, because everyone who has really studied the problem knows it. But if O'Neal knows it, he is careful to conceal it, because his real aim is to advance the interests of "Big Business" of all descriptions — and to the devil with the small farmer and the worker!

—*The Union Leader, Chicago.*

Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, Michigan gauleiter, favors Sen. Robert A. Taft for President in 1944. And for campaign buttons, he can use the swastikas our boys send back from the European front.—*The Indianapolis Union.*



# *They've Caught* **MORGAN** *Again!!!*



## Indiana State Tax Board

Peter A. Beczkiewicz

Charles H. Bedwell

Howard R. Atcheson

**T**HE tax rate of Jennings Township, Indiana, has been reduced again. And why was it reduced?

Because the Morgan Packing Company is paying its taxes.

Why is it paying its taxes?

Because it has to pay its taxes. It couldn't weasel out of them. And don't think it didn't try. A nickel to the Morgan Packing Company is as sacred as a bottle of rotten ketchup. And the Morgan Packing Company has plenty of both.

Thanks to the Indiana Tax Board it will have fewer nickels after it pays last year's taxes.

The board boosted Morgan's personal property valuation more than half a million

dollars. In 1942 the board boosted the valuation almost three-quarters of a million, making a total increase for the two years of \$1,295,688.

Because of the action of the tax board in making Morgan pay his fair share of taxes, the tax rate of Jennings Township, where Morgan's main plant is located, was reduced 52 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation last year.

As a result of the 1943 increase in Morgan's taxes, the tax rate for the township will go down 10 cents more, for a total reduction of 25 per cent in two years.

That means that a man with a \$5,000 home in Jennings Township will pay \$31 less per year. For that, he can thank



Charles H. Bedwell, Howard R. Atcheson and Peter A. Beczkiewicz of the Indiana Tax Board.

For 1943, Ivan C. Morgan, president of the company, submitted a personal property valuation of \$763,320. That was half a million more than he submitted the previous year.

But it was still too low. The board was fortified, as it was in 1942, with figures obtained by J. H. Robertson, appraisal engineer for the board. On the basis of Robertson's investigation, the board upped Morgan's valuation to \$1,322,460, an increase of \$559,230.

"You can't do that to me," Morgan screamed in substance as he vehemently protested the action. But the board did do it, just as it did the year before.

Morgan maintains that he is being unfairly dealt with. If he is, all he has to do is to take the tax board into court and prove it. He didn't do it last year, in spite of all his protests.

And if he does it this year, the board is ready for him. Former Judge Charles H. Bedwell is chairman of the board and Judge Bedwell knows how to handle himself in court.

If Morgan wants to take him on, Judge Bedwell is waiting.

The increase made in Morgan's valuations for 1943 was only a small part of the general increases made by the board as it cracked down on other corporations who have been evading their taxes.

These include corporations who have been charging that the federal government is ruining them by taxation. But the tax board found they were doing pretty well, in spite of their frequent cries of "wolf," probably to divert public attention from the

fact that they were not paying as much taxes as they should.

The largest increase was one of \$7,029,745 for the General Electric Company of Fort Wayne. The company put on an "hour of charm" before the tax board but it didn't work.

It tried everything but its "magic violin" which makes other taxpayers so sentimental when they hear it over the radio that they forget all about the fact that General Electric also plays a lyre for the tax collector.

The tax board didn't blow its nose over General Electric's music, however. Instead, it blew up the tax valuation from \$5,584,105, which the company figured was about right, to \$12,613,850.

Other increases made by the board which will save hard cash for home owners and farmers of Indiana were:

American Steel Foundry of East Chicago, an increase of \$932,400 from \$1,864,800 to \$2,797,200.

Pullman Standard Car Manufacturing Co. of LaPorte, an increase of \$573,690 from \$1,161,710 to \$1,735,400.

S. F. Bowser & Co. of Fort Wayne, an increase of \$587,665 from \$469,410 to \$1,057,075.

Penn Electric Co. of Elkhart County, an increase of \$607,155 from \$191,380 to \$796,535.

Ross Gear & Tool Co. of Lafayette, an increase of \$303,815 from \$437,115 to \$740,930.

National Homes, Inc., of Lafayette, an increase of \$107,940 from \$289,510 to \$397,450.

When these corporations submitted a report of their taxable property and its value,



J. H. Robertson



their officials signed an oath which said:

"The statements contained in this report are a full, true and complete list of all property held or belonging to me and subject to taxation under the laws of this state and that I have valued such property at its true cash value, by which I mean the usual selling price that could be obtained for said property at private sale and not forced or auction sale."

That oath is clear and simple. Yet some of the taxpayers like Morgan computed the low manufacturing cost of the products they had on hand rather than the handsome profit they would bring when sold.

Violation of this oath is perjury, punishable by a prison sentence on conviction, members of the tax board pointed out.

Any charges must be brought by the prosecuting attorney in the county where the offense occurred.

No criminal proceedings have yet been instituted. If the prosecutors don't know where to find the evidence, they can call the tax board.

The number is Riley 2505, Indianapolis. It's the first door on the left as you come in the Senate Avenue entrance.

You can't miss it — if you're looking for it!

## *Boston Milk Drivers Give Blood*



Here are a part of the 64 members of Milk Wagon Drivers' and Creamery Employees' Union No. 380 of Boston who visited the Red Cross headquarters in a body recently to give their blood for wounded soldiers and sailors. The picture was taken by the Red Cross as the men were resting and receiving refreshments after giving a pint of blood each. It was one of the largest groups that has appeared from any union in the blood donor campaign.



# *Civil Liberties Union Aids Fascism*

## Cooperates with Ku Klux Klan and Jap Sympathizers

BY LESTER M. HUNT

**R**OGER BALDWIN, the ex-convict who directs the American Civil Liberties Union, has pledged his cooperation to Gerald L. K. Smith, the oracle of the Ku Klux Klan and the America First Committee, in the coming presidential campaign, according to the newspapers. Baldwin says he will defend Smith's right of "free speech."

Thus the Fascist movement in America gets aid and comfort from an organization allegedly formed to protect the processes of democracy which the Fascists would destroy.

And the Workers' Defense League, which advertises itself as a "national nonpartisan defense agency of the labor movement," is attacking the supreme court because it refused to release 18 Trotsky revolutionaries who conspired to destroy by force of arms the American system of democratic government.

The Trotskyites also attempted to destroy the American labor movement in Minnesota, in view of which, it is peculiar to find them represented by the "defense agency of the labor movement."

Just what is the Workers' Defense League trying to defend?

The answer to that is further complicated by the fact that both this phoney "workers" league and the Civil Liberties Union are trying to spring Kelly Postal from Stillwater Prison in Minnesota.

Postal is just a common thief, caught while looting the Teamsters' treasury of Minneapolis. He put \$5,000 of the Teamsters' money in his pocket and was caught in the act.

Now the Civil Liberties Union and the "workers" league are trying to get Postal pardoned.

Perhaps the natural sympathy of an ex-convict for a convict may influence the

Civil Liberties Union, particularly under its present leadership.

Maybe Baldwin doesn't like to see anyone go to prison for anything.

Do the Civil Liberties Union and the Workers' Defense League believe that there should be an open season on the funds of labor unions? Do they believe that a man who robs a bank should go to prison while a man who robs a labor union should go free?

Or do they have such contempt for the laws of a democracy that they don't want to see any of them enforced?

Baldwin's record may throw some light on that. He went to prison for a crime worse than Postal's. Postal betrayed his union while Baldwin betrayed his country. He refused to defend the principles he espouses and went to the big house for shirking his duty in the last war.

And now we find Baldwin pledging Gerald Smith the support of the Civil Liberties Union in his right of "free speech." Baldwin has also defended the "right" of Nazis to parade in uniforms carrying swastikas.

We find the funny "workers" league pledging the same support to the Trotsky revolutionaries. In fact, a propaganda blast issued by the "workers" against the supreme court says:

"America should bow its head in shame that this gagging of free speech should occur while our boys fight overseas ostensibly for democracy." Notice that word "ostensibly."

The Workers' Defense League never fought for democracy. It supports and encourages revolutionary propaganda designed to promote dictatorship. And Baldwin never fought for democracy either.

Just where does free speech end and incitement to crime begin in the platform



of the "workers" league? The laws have always held that a man who induces another to commit a murder is guilty with the murderer. Why should not the same reasoning apply to persons who advocate the murder of democracy?

Has a democracy no right to defend itself? Must it permit every Ku Klux hoodlum to preach race and religious hatred under the guise of "free speech"? Must it allow the propagandists of an enemy form of government to preach sedition in the midst of a war for survival?

Is it the secret program of the Civil Liberties Union and the "workers" league to promote bloody racial and religious conflicts inside the friendly framework of democracy? These organizations could have embarked on no policy more certain to produce them.

And when you find these two organizations playing in Minnesota with the Fellowship of Reconciliation to free Postal you get another angle of this unholy alliance.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is supporting the plan to import Jap labor into the Middle West from the concentration camps of the West.

The Japs are now being given jobs in strategic war production centers taking the places of men called to the colors to fight other Japs.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation has been active behind the barbed wire of the Jap concentration camps, supposedly agitating in favor of brotherly love towards the Japs.

They were active at Tule Lake, Cali-

fornia, according to evidence which came out after the riots there.

This same Fellowship of Reconciliation, under cover of night, attempted to hold a ceremony in a Jap Buddhist cemetery in Oregon *after Pearl Harbor*, but the Oregonians heard about it and ran the Jap sympathizers into the brush.

The Oregonians remembered how some of the Jap flyers shot down at Pearl Harbor wore the class rings of Oregon colleges, where they had been educated by the democracy they treacherously attacked.

And this Fellowship of Reconciliation is the outfit that now pops up in Minnesota and says that Postal was framed by the Teamsters and should be turned loose to profit by the money he stole.

What are its motives? Jap labor is one of them.

And what are the motives of the Civil Liberties Union and the workers "defense" league?

Perhaps the last paragraph in the latest propaganda release of the "workers" league, which makes common cause with the Civil Liberties Union, has the answer.

Here it is: "The supreme court has dealt the *revolutionary* and democratic movement of this country a severe blow."

They are convicted by their own words—a *revolutionary* movement.

Organized labor, with two million of its members fighting around the world for democracy, welcomes the "severe blow" dealt this revolutionary movement by the supreme court.

We trust the next blow will prove fatal.

## Conciliation Service Opens Regional Offices

Decentralization of the conciliation service of the department of labor has been announced by Director John R. Steelman in the interest of faster and more efficient adjustment of disputes.

Three new regional offices are:

New York—Regional Director H. R. Colwell, U. S. Conciliation Service, 341

Ninth Avenue. Telephone Bryant 9-3930.

Chicago—Regional Director E. R. McDonald, U. S. Conciliation Service, 222 West Adams St. Telephone State 8950.

San Francisco—Regional Director E. M. Marsh, U. S. Conciliation Service, 533 Pheasant Building, 760 Market St. Telephone Douglas 8903.



# Truckers Draft Manpower Plan

## Mid-West Meeting Basis for National Program

**I**MMEDIATE action to remedy the acute manpower shortage in the trucking industry has been taken by Ted V. Rodgers, president of the American Trucking Association, with the hearty cooperation of the Teamsters' Union, following a meeting of labor, employer and government representatives in Chicago last month.

The meeting provided a blueprint for tackling the manpower program throughout the country. It was the third and most successful of a series of three meetings held to devise methods of providing enough men to keep the motor transportation system functioning efficiently.

Previous meetings had been held in Washington, D. C., and in San Francisco but neither developed the thorough discussion of the manpower problem in all its phases that the Chicago meeting did.

As a result of the Chicago conference, Rodgers announced the immediate appointment of committees to handle the program in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, the hub of the national highway transportation system.

The same plan will be followed with some modification for the rest of the nation.

Each state committee includes a representative of the truckers, the Teamsters, the selective service and the manpower commission. Each committee will be primarily concerned with the problem of its own state, but they will all work along parallel lines toward the same objective — to keep the trucks rolling through the Mid-west and on to the East, West and South.

One of the first steps will be to acquaint local draft boards with the needs of highway transportation. Employees of the carriers have been going into the armed services at such a rate that the entire system is threatened with breakdown.

The Chicago meeting brought out that this is a condition for which labor, industry and the federal agencies are all partly responsible through failure to act quickly enough to avert the crisis.

By including representatives of the manpower commission and selective service on each committee, labor and industry will be able to see that its joint and individual problems are thoroughly understood by the government.

Harry F. Chaddick, president of the American Transportation Co., Inc., of Chicago, listed six classifications of motor carrier employees who are essential to the industry and who should be deferred from further induction into the armed services.

Listed in the order of their importance, they are:

1. Mechanics and helpers.
2. Drivers.
3. Terminal managers.
4. Dispatchers.
5. Foremen.
6. Rate and tariff men.

The immediate problem before the trucking industry is to hold what men it has until replacements can be obtained. Therefore, no more men from the truck lines should be inducted for the present.

Because of the necessity for thorough training, it is impossible for the industry to maintain its efficiency with new recruits.

The attempt to do so has resulted in a terrific toll of lives and equipment.

Michael Healy, business agent of Local No. 710, Chicago, told the meeting that his union alone averages  $5\frac{1}{2}$  deaths of drivers per month, due to improperly trained drivers and to faulty equipment.

Robert B. Gotfredson, president of the Trans-American Freight Lines of Detroit, said that his company had suffered 20 seri-



ous accidents in 10 weeks for the same reasons.

"Our hats are off to labor in Detroit for its no-strike policy," he said in tribute to James R. Hoffa, International trustee, who attended the meeting representing the Detroit Joint Council of Teamsters.

"We cannot operate with 18-year-old boys," he continued. "Nor can we put a woman in a cab with 20 tons of freight behind her and expect her to get to New York in 36 hours to meet a convoy."

"And we don't want Japs!"

Gotfredson suggested that some of the 20,000 conscientious objectors "who won't fight for their country be compelled to work for it by filling some of the common labor jobs that must be filled."

It was pointed out, however, that to obtain conscientious objectors, action by congress to change existing laws is necessary.

While agreeing with most of what Gotfredson said, Hoffa replied that over-the-road operators are responsible for the driver shortage in some localities by excessive layovers of drivers after they have completed their eight-hour rest periods.

He said that many drivers were left waiting for loads for several days.

Rodgers assured Hoffa that the operators' association would start an immediate investigation to determine the extent of this practice and to correct it.

Selective service officials of the four states agreed with the others that more consideration must be shown in taking essential men, but they declared that the employers have been lax in appearing before draft boards to retain their essential employees.

They warned that there would be no blanket deferments and that each case must stand on its individual merits. However, they indicated that the problems of the industry would be given greater consideration in the future, provided draft boards were acquainted with the facts.

Labor and industry promised they would

cooperate to see that the draft boards get the facts.

One valuable source of new manpower lies in the thousands of men being discharged from the armed services every month for disabilities, the meeting was informed.

Many of these men have previous training which would fit them for employment in one of the six classifications essential to the trucking industry.

To tap this reservoir, the state committees will contact veterans' placement officers in their respective states.

The federal employment service is another source of personnel. Complaints by operators that they have received no help from the agency brought the reply from William Dorn of Detroit, chairman of labor-management advisory transportation committee of the War Manpower Commission, that employers have failed to indicate their needs and to take advantage of federal bureaus and regulations.

He said they had not indicated their replacement needs and had not requested priorities on them.

A further source of skilled transportation labor lies in men who have left to take higher-paid jobs in defense plants. Dorn said a campaign by labor and management should be inaugurated to recover men in defense plants whose greatest skills lie in the transportation industry.

Many of these men prefer "to sit on their fannies" in defense plants rather than work as hard as they must in transportation, Rodgers said. He indorsed the plan to recruit them back and said that some personnel would be available by the renegotiation of defense contracts and the cutting down of defense payrolls.

Hoffa said that defense jobs were attractive because men were treated better and paid better. He charged that operators had contributed to their own shortage of dock help by hiring bums in order to keep the wages low.



Dexter Lewis, general organizer representing the Central States Drivers' Council, said that the scarcity of mechanics today is partly because of past policies of truck operators.

"They previously operated on the theory of wearing out their equipment and replacing it with new," he said. "Now they must maintain their old equipment because new equipment is not available."

He criticized the attempt of the Hayes Freight Lines of Mattoon, Ill., to take advantage of Jap labor to keep wages down. Lewis said the company hired four Jap mechanics at 65 cents an hour while the prevailing scale was \$1.25 per hour.

This policy of some employers to keep trucking wages as low as possible has contributed to the present scarcity, he said. The men have gone elsewhere to employers who appreciate their worth.

The gravity of the problem was emphasized by Frank Corcoran, manager of the Chicago office of the ODT. He said that a survey conducted between December 7 and 11 in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana indicated that 25,000 truck days were being lost monthly through idle equipment.

The survey covered 753 carriers operating 15,360 trucks. It showed 942 trucks

idle because of the lack of drivers. Others were idle because of insufficient mechanics.

He said 32.5 per cent of the drivers of these companies were in various stages of induction into the armed forces while 28.4 per cent of the mechanics were also.

Rodgers reported that trucking employees receiving induction notices were being sent letters by defense employers advising them to go to work for them and avoid induction.

Freight is piling up on the Chicago docks due to a decrease of 35 per cent in the handling of goods, it was reported.

Frank Purse, district director of ICC, said the loss of transportation manpower to the armed services and defense plants had increased the severity and frequency of accidents.

He said no new equipment in any quantity was possible before April and that if the highway transport system bogged down in the meantime, the military campaigns would be slowed down from lack of supplies.

The greatest hope for immediate relief lies in the state committees appointed by Rodgers. And out of the thorough review of all the aspects of the manpower problem revealed in Chicago, steps can be taken to cope with them on a nation-wide scale.

## No Price Too High to Beat Roosevelt

Every Connecticut congressman — and our one congresswoman — voted against subsidies. That men like Compton and Talbot would vote to spite the administration, regardless of the dangerous effect of their action on the working people of this country, is not surprising.

We had thought there was a possibility that Rep. Clare Luce and Rep. William Miller might put their patriotism above party politics. Obviously, we were indulging in wishful thinking.

More obvious is the fact that the representatives in the House continue to think in terms of how to beat the administration,

and not in terms of the best for the welfare of the people.

Subsidies act as a limitation on profits. Thus, our legislators are against limiting profits, while many of them are in favor of freezing wages; and are opposed to any limitation on salaries above \$25,000 a year.

The job of Connecticut labor now is to tell our senators that we are in the midst of a war, and that the defeat of subsidies opens the door to runaway inflation which must be prevented at all costs — even to the cost of agreeing with President Roosevelt — for once.

—*The Union Times*, New Haven, Conn.



## *Priest Pillories Pegler*

— Writes Open Letter to Anti-Labor Columnist

Mr. Westbrook Pegler,  
c/o World Telegram,  
125 Barclay Street, N. Y. C.

Dear Mr. Pegler:

It was with a certain bit of gratification that I read your article in reply to Father Thomas Shortell, S. J. As I was instrumental in assisting the Holy Cross Institute on Industrial Relations to formulate its labor policy my interest in your remarks is more than casual.

Your public acknowledgment of your respect for the Jesuits is appreciated. I understand that you had a year or two in one of our high schools in Chicago.

Reciprocating your compliment I desire to write on a plane of mutual respect. Allow me to call your attention to a few necessary considerations that must be acknowledged by anyone who writes extensively on the subject of labor relations and to ask a pertinent question.

You disclaim responsibility to look at both sides of this question. You liken yourself to a prosecuting attorney. Personally you may feel justified in assuming that role. When your position as journalist is analyzed the title is untenable.

You are a witness giving testimony to the public on labor conditions and industrial relations. If you had remained with the Jesuits long enough to study scholastic philosophy you would now know that a witness, if he is to be trusted, must give all the testimony in a two-sided controversy.

As a believer in honest journalistic justice, regardless of what your confreres might believe, should impel you to investigate the other side of this very complicated and complex question.

In a letter forwarded to the *World Telegram* January 29, 1943, a copy of which was forwarded to you, we pointed out to

you that labor relations were not something absolute, they are relative.

The actions of management and labor have an influence one upon the other. We explained that many of the evils within the trade unions today are effects of the anti-labor policies of organized management in the past. You must have read that letter.

The power of the anti-union segments of organized management has not been destroyed. It is being held temporarily in check by legislation (good or bad as the case may be) and the growth of the trade unions.

Thousands of working people will attest to that and any honest employer will concede there are just as many culpable men on the side of management as there are on the side of the unions.

The point is this: When you refuse to recognize this tremendous unsympathetic power that the working people must face, and when you fail to inform your unsuspecting readers of the great benefits that unionism has brought to the workers, you strengthen the arm of the anti-labor employer and weaken the cause of the honest unionist.

If you had restricted your remarks to racketeers and had not used the same characters time after time to bolster up some slightly different circumstance I would agree with you 100 per cent.

But by a unique form of innuendo your criticisms have embraced the trade union movement as a whole.

In an effort to cut off the poisoned fingers you create the impression that the patient (trade unionism) should be killed off.

The percentage of people who know the other side of the story, who can see the picture as a whole, is relatively small. A distorted angry public opinion concerning the



trade union movement is the natural effect.

As a result of this one-sided presentation the public has been led to make unbalanced judgments. (I do not deny nor do I condone for one minute the evils practiced by some union leaders.)

The public indignation that should be directed against the individuals is now swinging toward a condemnation of the trade union movement itself.

Anti-labor employers, anti-labor legislators and anti-labor propagandist machines are waiting for the propitious moment "to put labor in its place," which means to deprive the working people of as much of the protective power that it has gained as possible.

The nature of your articles has been such that the ordinary reader has been unable to distinguish trade unionism from the racketeering element that has wormed its way into parts of it.

By your admission that you do not know any good unions you have cast doubt upon the integrity of every trade union official of whom you have knowledge. By your generalizations and inferences the public has been led to believe that you are acquainted with the whole movement.

When you began your crusade against racketeering you wrote to arouse your readers to a realization of an evil. You have succeeded well in that objective. But any virtue drawn to an extreme soon becomes a vice.

The reaction that is setting in is running beyond the desire to curb the racketeers to that of destroying the movement. Your peculiar method of presentation is the cause of a good deal of that.

It strikes me that you have an obligation as a good journalist, assuming responsibility for the effects of what you began, to do something about it.

The most efficient way to balance the distorted judgment of a great many people is for you now to publicize, with equal display of talent, the benefits, the accomplishments, the good things in and out of the

trade union movement. If you need data for the job we will help supply it.

The trade union movement has been the one great instrument, in spite of its present liabilities, that the working people in this country have had to better their economic status. Without it there is no permanent assurance of the things in life which are due them and for which they strive against great odds.

As a beginning of this new turn I would respectfully suggest that you tell your readers what definite, constructive means are possible — without the trade unions — to prevent the return of the anti-labor policies and practices which prevailed for so many years while organized management controlled the balance of economic and social power in this country. Among the evils that must be prevented I cite a few:

(a) The use of amoral detective agencies to spy upon workers in their homes and in the shops in order to put their jobs in jeopardy if found to be union-minded men.

(b) The indiscriminate use of the injunction.

(c) The craven "company union" by means of which a few favored employees are bribed or unduly rewarded at the expense of the independence and welfare of the whole group.

(d) The "yellow dog" contract that pits the power of organized management against each single worker.

(e) The lobbying power of wealth and management in the legislatures.

(f) The sugar-coated but insidious propaganda that convinced the public that the "open shop," which in fact usually meant a shop closed to union-minded men — that this is the "American way."

(g) The unlimited power of the unscrupulous employer to discriminate against the individual worker when everything must be left to his discretion.

Legislation today provides protection on many of these points, a protection gained



in good part by the active zeal on the part of trade unionists. Smash the unions and see how long the protection will last.

Assuring you once again that I write free of a spirit of bitterness or resentment, entirely with the hope that justice may be

done to the millions of men and women whose lives depend on the strength that they can muster through unified organizations.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM J. SMITH, S. J.

## "Gale" Is Right--A Gale of Wind

BY J. A. KEEFE

*Editor, Minnesota Teamster*

**P**UBLIC DISGUST with our weasel-worded congressmen has risen to such a point that the *Minneapolis Star Journal* has started a campaign to build up these lightweights as peerless statesmen. Obvious reason for the build-up is fear these Republicans will be beaten in the next election.

It has started a series of feature stories about these men, giving each the homey touch along with crude inference that these fugitives from debating societies are wisdomatic wows.

First of the subjects of the series was Congressman Richard Pillsbury Gale, a fence-riding isolationist, who apparently seeks to emulate Senator Shipstead in spouting meaningless statements, and doing nothing that would displease a pressure group numbering more than a half-dozen. Well, it's sometimes good strategy to put the weak hitter up to bat first. In the event of a rally the manager doesn't have to worry about futile Gale coming up in the pinch.

Quotes from Gale about what the government should do readily show the remarks didn't emanate from any deep-thinking department. His remark that "congress must carry the ball," is treated as of astounding importance. Minnesota has sunk to a low state when the best it can get out of a congressman is a statement that congress should do its duty. Why, the fellow must be a genius!

Then Gale is quoted as favoring more rigid control over unions, public auditing of union funds, etc. But then cautious Gale says he is not thinking of local union leaders but the exceptional cases.

That's just salve for his laboring constituents. Public auditing of union funds would enable employers to smash weak unions, and that's why he, as well as the employers who supported him, want it.

No. 2 of the series was Congressman Walter Judd of Minneapolis, the ex-missionary medic of a few million words—none important.

You can listen to Judd by the hour and the day—and that's what you usually have to do in his presence—and if you were Einstein you couldn't understand whether he is for or against any issue that happens to be controversial.

His contributing statement to the poor devil given the impossible task of writing a build-up story was that we must save money to avoid inflation. Startling stuff, eh?

Without exception these Republican isolationist congressmen by their record show they are simply puppets for the anti-Roosevelt, anti-liberal and anti-labor crowd. They are using the war to play politics. They must be defeated if Minnesota is ever going to return to the fold of liberal states.

---

Those now most loud against a fourth term for Roosevelt opposed him in 1932 for even a first term. While reference is often made to hypocrites in churches, there's plenty of them in politics.—*St. Louis Union Labor Advocate*.



# No Jap Help Wanted Here

## — Unions Keep Them Out of Two Mid-West Cities

**O**PPOSING the importation of "American born or any other born" Japs, the labor unions of Michigan City and South Bend, Indiana, have blocked a plan approved by some manufacturers to empty the Jap concentration camps into the defense plants of the Chicago area.

As a result of strong labor protests, the city council of Michigan City rejected the Jap importation plan after a public discussion of the question. The vote of the city council was unanimous that no Jap help was wanted.

In South Bend the proposal was rejected unanimously by the local committee of the War Manpower Commission, representing the AFL, CIO and employers.

The discussion in Michigan City brought out one significant fact. It was that local labor was leaving to accept better-paid jobs in other defense plants nearby, according to employers.

Instead of trying to hold their American labor at prevailing wages, they sought to replace it with Jap labor at lower wages. This explains one reason why the social

reformers are receiving so much secret assistance in their efforts to flood the defense areas with "American born" Japs.

To justify their efforts, the social workers maintain, there are two classes of Japs, one loyal to America and the other loyal to Japan.

Not even a social worker can tell the difference between them, however. They had to call in the army at Tule Lake, Calif., to correct the mistake the social workers made there. They needed more bayonets and less baloney.

In spite of the Jap uprising, social workers still maintain that the Japs are unfairly treated by being held in concentration camps.

Those who think the Japs are badly treated should compare the following menus of food served Japs in American camps and that served Americans in Jap camps. More than 1,600 Americans have died in Jap camps, and at least two of them were Teamsters.

And when you compare the food, you know why.

### FOOD SERVED JAPS BY U. S.

### FOOD SERVED AMERICANS BY JAPS

#### BREAKFAST

Stewed dried fruit, dry cereal, hot milk, hot cakes and syrup, coffee or milk.

Hot tea and wormy meat (tough water buffalo with gristle and bone), cracked wheat with worms.

#### LUNCH

Vegetable soup, beef stew with vegetables, farm vegetables, steamed rice, bread and tea.

Rice sweepings containing glass, nails and pebbles.

#### DINNER

Frankfurters and cabbage, steamed rice, boiled farm vegetables, vegetable salad, cake, bread and tea.

Two ounces of goat or water buffalo meat with hair still on it.

#### OTHER MEALS

Wide variation of above with different types of meat, vegetables and fruit.

Small combination of above with spoiled fish and sour bread.



## Local Unions Should Save Some Money —

# *Prepare for Unemployment*

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

**L**OCAL UNIONS should measure their expenses in accordance with their income. Each local union should set aside some money now in these days of prosperity to protect themselves against the days of unemployment when their membership will undoubtedly fall down.

A local union is chartered by the International. It owes its existence to the International. Its first obligation is to obey the laws of the International. It is the duty of the International Union to see to it that the local union obeys the constitution drafted by the conventions.

The first obligation of a local union is to pay its per capita tax of 30 cents per month per member to the parent body.

The International cannot exist without money to run its affairs. The International accounts for all revenues taken in and all expenditures.

We have found in recent months some local unions paying their local business agents and officers first and then, sometimes, forgetting their tax to the International. The International cannot pay on what it does not receive to the American Federation of Labor and the labor bodies with which it is affiliated.

We have found also, in one or two instances, where local unions had an expense over and above their revenue and they were steadily digging into their surplus.

Eventually the union will be bankrupt and the International may be compelled to take over the local union and remove the officers. No local union should have an expense greater than its income. As a matter of fact, during the war, local unions should save a substantial amount of their income each month to meet the days of distress which are sure to come.

We also have found local unions of less

than six or seven hundred members with two and three salaried officers who draw what we believe are unreasonable salaries when you base the salary on the revenue of the local union.

This is what would be considered by any business institution as willful mismanagement and should be remedied.

This condition will be remedied, we are afraid, by the government before very many more years have passed over our heads and there will be an accounting demanded, and explanations will have to be made as to such poor business methods.

For instance, if a local union has three salaried officers getting \$10,000 a year each and a membership of only 1,000, this would necessitate enormous initiation fees or unreasonable dues. No unprejudiced person would consider this as good business. Rather it would be interpreted as a method of business to provide substantial salaries for officers who may have unduly influenced the membership.

We are advising you along these lines now so that you may understand the position of the International Union and what may be brought about by legislation.

In other words, we advise officers to run their local union not for their own special interest, but for the interest of their membership. Invest the moneys of the local union carefully. The officers will be held responsible for this when the time comes.

Clean your slate now, have your expenses regulated in accordance with your revenue. Unions are not created, nor do they exist, for the purpose of benefiting the officers of the union.

They are created for the benefit of the rank and file of the membership who are the stockholders of the union.



## Ponies Run--So Do Senators

RACE TRACK gamblers and night club operators must know the right people on Capitol Hill. They succeeded in persuading the United States Senate finance committee to reduce emergency war taxes voted by the house.

The manufacturers of expensive furs also got the ear of the senators and had the luxury taxes on furs reduced.

It was no trouble at all. There were no open hearings, no arguments. The gamblers, night club operators and furriers were not even put to the expense and inconvenience of traveling to Washington to impress the senators with their logic, or whatever you impress a senator with these days.

But when it came to a question of raising the prices of food, congress was not so easily impressed. Housewives had to catch the first train for Washington to explain to these "statesmen" that if they ban subsidies on food, the prices will go so high that people on low income will have to eat less.

And when it came to letting the soldiers vote, the senate patted them on the back with one hand and picked their pockets with the other. They can't vote. The senate, however, didn't tell them that.

The senate said they could vote provided a lot of impossible things happened. The senators weren't kidding anybody but as long as the soldiers are safely in the army until after the next election, the senators know that they can't vote them off the payroll.

But when a gambler murmurs about the terrible hardships of war, the senate finance committee cuts his taxes in wet-eyed sympathy.

And when a night club operator does a fan dance on a telephone wire leading to a senator's ear, the senator shudders at his financial nakedness and throws him a blanket of tax exemption.

And that mink coat? No extra taxes on that. Perish the thought. It would ruin free enterprise.

So congress shadow boxes with taxation, giving preference to those who have and taking more from those who have not.

It refuses to impose the taxes necessary to finance the war, bartering the public good for a handful of votes at election time.

Maybe congress doesn't think the public knows what it is doing. Just to keep the record straight, congress is deliberately and viciously paving the way for a sales tax.

It is creating a financial crisis and when the crisis has become sufficiently acute the cry will go up—"We must have a sales tax. It is the only tax that will raise quickly the vast sums we need."

That is another tax that lands on the dinner tables of the poor. It will not hurt the gamblers or the night clubs. What can you do about it? Just be patient. The senators, like the ponies, will soon be running again.



# WEAR THE EMBLEM OF OUR ORGANIZATION



The Above Cuts Represent the  
**Button, Watch Fob and Cuff Buttons**  
 Sold by the General Office

**THE PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

Gold Plated Buttons (Sterling Silver) . \$ .50 apiece  
 14-K Solid Gold Buttons . . . . . 2.50 apiece  
 Cuff Buttons . . . . . 1.00 a pair  
 Watch Charms . . . . . 2.00 apiece

All Members should have a copy of the International  
 Constitution and Laws . . . . . Copies, 5 cents each  
 Order through your Local

All orders should be sent through the Secretary of the Local Union to

**JOHN M. GILLESPIE, Secretary**

222 EAST MICHIGAN STREET

INDIANAPOLIS 4, INDIANA

# UNION SERVICE

INTERNATIONAL  
 BROTHERHOOD  
 of TEAMSTERS  
 CHAUFFEURS



WAREHOUSEMEN  
 AND HELPERS  
 OF  
 AMERICA

Affiliated with

A.F. of L.

*Daniel J. Tolson*, General President



*John M. Gillespie*, Gen'l Sec'y-Treasurer

THIS IS THE PROPERTY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS OF AMERICA.

This is the standard union service sign officially approved for all branches  
 of the Teamsters' Union. Order them from the general secretary-treasurer.  
 The signs are of metal, 7 by 11 inches in size. They cost 25 cents each.